prove their performance but also to ensure about the use of latest technology and expertise in this field;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the observations of the Advisory Board on Energy; and

(c) what steps ONGC and OIL propose to take to improve their performance and adopt latest technology in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MIINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir. The Advisory Board on Energy has recommended that, even while trying to achieve self reliance, there must always be a technology, window for there are always areas where this country will have no option but to purchase technology and services.

(b) and c) The steps include:—

(i) Acquisition | Charter|hire of latest available equipment in the field of exploration, surveys and laboratories etc.

(ii) Training of officers in house and abroad in latest technology.

(iii) Participation of officers in various scientific|technical conferences.

(iv) Obtaining assistance of foreign experts whenever required.

(v) Foreign collaborations and consultancy.

1745. [*Transferred to the 14th August*, 1986.]

Allotment of retail outlets

1746. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1986 and state what steps are contemplated by Government for ensuring fair selection from amongst the applicants for allotment of retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The present procedure of selection through Oil Selection Boards is proposed to be continued.

Manufacture of costly Drugs by Multinationals

1747. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Exploitation by drug unit must end" as reported in the Indian Express of the 13th May, 1986;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the multinational drug companies in the country are manufacturing very costly drugs which are beyond the reach of poor people; and

(c) if so, what is Central Government's reaction therto and what steps are being proposed to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Prices of price controlled drugs specified in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 are statutorily regulated under the provisions of said Order. Statutory regulation of prices of drugs manufactured by all the companies including multinational companies ensures their availability at fair and reasonable prices.